IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO:	**10/088,123**
APPLICANT:	**CASINI, et al.**
FILING DATE:	**14 March 2002**
TITLE:	**COMMUNICATION NETWORK IN PARTICULAR FOR TELEPHONY**
TECH CENTER/ART UNIT:	**2687**
EXAMINER:	**CHO, Un C.**
DOCKET NO.:	**018765-9001**

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Applicant hereby requests a refund of $ 280.00, which was charged to Deposit Account 50-1965 in connection with U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/088,123.

The $280.00 fee, shown on the enclosed Exhibit A, includes a fee code 1203 which indicates the fee is for multiple dependent claims. The application, as amended, does not contain multiple dependent claims, as shown by the listing of claims in Exhibit B. Applicant notes, as an aside, that the $280.00 fee does not correspond to the appropriate fee for an application containing multiple dependent claims. Applicant is not aware of any reason why the $280.00 fee would be charged on this application.

Note that Applicant does not dispute the $120.00 fee charged to the deposit account for the extension of time.

Applicant believes that this error is chargeable to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and that Applicant should not be charged the Petition Fee; however,the paragraph on page 1 of this document provides authorization to charge any appropriate fees to Deposit Account 50-1965.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa C Childs Feb 3, 2006

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MS0208 (6/2004)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as indicated in the listing of claims below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the Pending Application. The claims are marked to indicate the changes made with deletions indicated by strikethroughs and additions indicated by underlining.

Claim 1 (Currently amended). A communications network, in particular for telephony, comprising:

at least one operator;

a plurality of remote units designed to exchange signals with the operator and to exchange radio frequency (RF) signals with mobile terminals;

an interface unit inserted between the operator and the remote units, the interface unit having at least one input for receiving signals from the remote units and at least one output for sending signals to the remote units, the interface unit also being designed to exchange signals with the operator;

a first transmission support for connecting the interface unit to the remote units , the first transmission support being designed to support a main signal, the first transmission support having a first end connected to the interface unit input and at least a second end connected to the interface unit output, the main signal consisting of a plurality of secondary signals, each identified by a preset parameter value, each of the remote units receiving said main signal and being designed to process a secondary signal intended for it, each of the remote units ~~unites~~ being able to select at least one secondary signal intended for it from said main signal according to the preset parameter value.

Claim 2 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 1, wherein the preset parameter is a wavelength, the remote units sending to and receiving from the interface unit signals at the wavelength (λi) associated with them.

Claim 3 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 1, wherein the secondary signals received from and sent to the interface unit by the remote units are bundled and

preferably multiplexed by the interface unit according to the dense wave division multiplexing (D-WDM) technique.

Claim 4 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 1, wherein the first transmission support comprises an optic fibre support, the main signal being an optical signal propagating from the second end to the first end.

Claim 5 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 1, wherein each remote unit comprises:

a signal transmission block connected to the first transmission support for picking up at least one secondary signal from the main signal to be transmitted in the DL;

a signal reception block connected to the first transmission support for adding at least one signal received in the UL to the main signal;

an antenna attached to the signal transmission block and to the signal reception block for transmitting RF signals to the mobile terminals and for receiving RF signals from the mobile terminals.

Claim 6 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 5, wherein the signal transmission block comprises:

an optical filter element connected to the first transmission support for selecting, within the main signal, the secondary signal characterized by the parameter value associated with the remote unit;

preferably a first equalizer block connected downstream of the optical filter element;

a first electro-optical converter, for converting the optical signal from the interface unit into an electrical signal;

a first amplifier block connected to the first electro-optical converter;

a first RF filter for filtering the signals from the first converter.

Claim 7 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 5, wherein the signal reception block comprises:

a second RF filter for filtering a signal from the antenna;

a second amplifier block connected to the second RF filter;

a second electro-optical converter for converting an electrical signal from the second RF filter into an optical signal;

a second equalizer block connected downstream of the second electro-optical converter;

a signal insertion element for adding a signal received, characterized by the preset parameter value associated with the remote unit, to the main signal.

Claim 8 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 1, wherein the interface unit comprises:

a signal transmission circuit connected to the output and connected to the second end of the first transmission support, the signal transmission circuit picking up signals from the operator and sending them to the remote units;

a signal reception circuit connected to the input and connected to the first end of the first transmission support, the signal reception circuit receiving signals from the remote units and transmitting them to the operator.

Claim 9 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 8, wherein the signal transmission circuit comprises:

a first routing matrix with at least one input connected to the operator for receiving a signal from the operator and two or more outputs for sending electrical signals;

a first electro-optical converter unit connected to the outputs of the first routing matrix, for transforming the electrical signals from the first routing matrix into optical signals;

a multiplexer between the first electro-optical converter unit and the second end of the first transmission support, for bundling and transferring the optical signals from the first electro-optical converter unit in the first transmission support.

Claim 10 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 8, wherein the signal reception circuit comprises:

a demultiplexer connected to the first end of the first transmission support, for receiving the main signal and having a plurality of outputs for sending optical signals;

a second electro-optical converter unit connected to the outputs of the demultiplexer for transforming the optical signals sent by the demultiplexer into electrical signals;

a second routing matrix with two or more inputs connected to the second electro-optical converter unit and at least one output connected to the operator.

Claim 11 (Previously presented). A communications network, comprising:

at least one operator;

a first remote unit and at least a second remote unit, the remote units being designed to exchange signals with the operator and to exchange radio frequency (RF) signals with the mobile terminals;

an interface unit inserted between the operator and the remote units, the interface unit having at least one input for receiving signals from the remote units and at least one output for sending signals to the remote units, the interface unit also being designed to exchange signals with the operator;

a first transmission support for connecting the interface unit to the remote units , the first transmission support being designed to support a main signal, the first transmission support having a first end connected to the interface unit input and at least a second end connected to the interface unit output wherein the first remote unit has a first input directly connected to the interface unit output by the first transmission support and a first output, the second remote unit having a first input connected to the first output of the first remote unit by the first transmission support and a first output directly connected to the interface unit input by the first transmission support, the main signal propagating in the first transmission support from the second end to the first end.

Claim 12 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 11, wherein the first transmission support basically consists of an optic fibre loop passing through each remote unit, the main signal being an optical signal propagating in the loop from the first remote unit to the second remote unit.

Claim 13 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 12, further comprising a second transmission support, having a first end connected to the interface unit input and a second

end connected to the interface unit output, for supporting an auxiliary signal substantially identical to the main signal, the auxiliary signal propagating in the second transmission support from the second end of the second transmission support to the first end of the second transmission support.

Claim 14 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 13, wherein the second remote unit has a second input directly connected to the interface unit output by the second transmission support and a second output, the first remote unit having a second input connected to the second output of the second remote unit by the second transmission support and a second output directly connected to the interface unit input by the second transmission support, the auxiliary signal propagating in the second transmission support from the second remote unit to the first remote unit.

Claim 15 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 14, wherein the second transmission support basically consists of an optic fibre loop which passes through each of the remote units, the auxiliary signal being an optical signal propagating in the second transmission support from the second remote unit to the first remote unit.

Claim 16 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of operators which can be connected to the remote units by means of the interface unit.

Claim 17 (Previously presented). The network according to claim 11, further comprising a plurality of operators which can be connected to the remote units by means of the interface unit.

Claim 18 (Previously presented). The network of claim 1, wherein a first remote unit has a first input directly connected to the interface unit output by the first transmission support and a first output, a second remote unit having a first input connected to the first output of the first remote unit by the first transmission support and a first output directly connected to the interface unit input by the first transmission support, the main signal propagating in the first transmission support from the second end to the first end.

Claim 19 (Previously presented). The network of claim 18, wherein the first transmission support comprises an optic fibre loop passing through each remote unit, the main signal being an optical signal propagating in the loop from the first remote unit to the second remote unit.

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